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CONTROLS

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SERIAL: (U)

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BODY

COUNTRY: (U) NIGERIA (NI); SOUTH AFRICA (SF); CHINA (CH).

SUBJ: [REDACTED] /SOUTH AFRICA PRESSURES CHINA TO SUPPORT SANCTIONS AGAINST NIGERIA (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED @~~SECRET~~.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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DOI: (U) 951220.

(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c)

SUMMARY: (S) SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT ((MANDELA)) IS PRESSURING THE CHINESE TO SUPPORT HIS APPEAL FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST NIGERIA.

CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE PERPLEXED BECAUSE CHINA HAS ECONOMIC TIES IN

BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT HAS MORE AT STAKE IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE CHINESE

AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA WAS RECALLED FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUE.

TEXT: 1. (S) IN MID-DECEMBER 1995 THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA WAS RECALLED TO BEIJING FOR CONSULTATIONS REGARDING THE PRESSURE CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE FEELING FROM SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT

NELSON ((MANDELA)). CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL PRESSURE BEIJING TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL MILITARY AND

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST NIGERIA, AND FEAR THAT MANDELA WILL THREATEN CHINESE INTERESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA UNLESS BEIJING BACKS SOUTH AFRICA'S CALL FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST THE NIGERIAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT. ALSO IN MID-DECEMBER 1995, BEIJING ORDERED ITS DIPLOMATS IN NIGERIA TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE AND REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANY STATEMENTS THAT MIGHT IMPLY CHINESE SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

2. (S) CHINA IS ALSO BEING PRESSURED BY NIGERIA TO MAINTAIN ITS SUPPORT FOR SANI ((ABACHA))'S GOVERNMENT. CHINA RECENTLY CONCLUDED NEGOTIATIONS TO REPAIR THE DELAPIDATED NIGERIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS. WHILE IN CHINA, THE CHINESE

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AMBASSADOR WILL ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE CHINESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT NIGERIA IS ON THE BRINK OF CIVIL WAR AND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS ADVOCATED BY THE MANDELA AND OTHER NATIONS COULD PROVOKE A TOTAL BREAKDOWN OF CIVIL ORDER. THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR PLANS TO ARGUE THAT NIGERIA IS BEST RULED BY A MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THAT CHINA HAS ALWAYS BENEFITED POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY FROM ITS COOPERATION WITH VARIOUS NIGERIAN MILITARY LEADERS. THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR WILL ALSO POINT OUT THAT NIGERIAN CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY FAVORED TAIWAN OVER CHINA.  
3. ~~(S)~~ WHILE IT IS CHINESE POLICY NOT TO INTERFERE IN A COUNTRY'S INTERNAL MATTERS, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESSURE ON CHINA MIGHT IN THIS CASE LEAD BEIJING TO AT LEAST DISTANCE ITSELF FROM THE ABACHA REGIME.

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